

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

KEENAN K. COFIELD
Plaintiff,

v.

BALTIMORE CO. DIV. OF CORRECTIONS, *
et al.

Defendants.

*

* CIVIL ACTION NO. CCB-12-1316

*

MEMORANDUM

Keenan K. Cofield (“Cofield”), a federal inmate housed at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fairton, New Jersey (“FCI-Fairton”), filed this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 civil rights action on April 30, 2012. Cofield complains that without notice, proper documentation, or a due process hearing, a Baltimore County, Maryland corrections officer entered a detainer concerning “an unsigned judgment of conviction” imposed by Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge John Trumbull with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”). He asserts that because of the detainer, he lost all privileges and custody rights of the federal “camp” status and was placed on lock up/administrative segregation at the Fairton, New Jersey federal facility.¹ He seeks compensatory and punitive damages against each named defendant. Cofield claims that a detainer provides no legal justification for his placement on lock up and he has been subject to triple celling for a two week period. In

¹ FCI-Fairton is a medium security facility for male offenders. It also has an adjacent satellite prison camp housing minimum security male offenders. *See* <http://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/fai/index.jsp>.

short, he claims he was adversely affected by the detainer.² Because he appears indigent, Cofield's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall be granted. The Complaint shall, however, be dismissed without requiring service of process on defendants.

Cofield attacks the detainer and the consequences of same. The attack shall be construed as a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas claim and shall be dismissed without prejudice.³ To the extent Cofield claims that he has a constitutional entitlement to lower security status and work release, along with rehabilitative programming or that conditions at FCI-Fairton are unconstitutionally harsh, he has chosen the wrong forum. His claims shall be dismissed without prejudice. Cofield may bring the allegations in the appropriate federal court in New Jersey.

For the aforementioned reasons, the complaint shall be dismissed. A separate Order shall be entered in compliance with the opinion set out above.

Date: June 14, 2012

_____/s/
Catherine C. Blake
United States District Judge

² Plaintiff also claims that the BOP defendants assigned him to a food detail and required him to stand for several hours a day, seven days a week and he slipped twice and hurt his back. Cofield contends that he is restricted from doing any lifting, but was forced to lift heavy boxes and bags. Finally, he alleges that he was threatened by other federal inmates. ECF No. 1.

³ Cofield has already filed a § 2241 petition attacking the detainer. *See Cofield v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, et al.* Civil Action No. CCB-12-1178 (D. Md. 2012). That action remains pending before the court.